MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION NO

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FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 1, 2022/2023 (TERM ID : 2215)

BIT3104 INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND POLICY

(All sections / Groups)

21 FEBRUARY 2023
9.00AM-11.00AM
(2 Hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENT

1. This Question paper consists of 2 pages with 5 Questions only.

2. Attempt **ALL** in Section A. Attempt any **TWO** questions in Section B. All questions carry equal marks and the distribution of the marks for each question is given.

3. Please write all your answers in the Answer Booklet provided.

SECTION A : CASE STUDY

Attempt ALL questions.

SINGAPORE (The Straits Times/Asia News Network): Cases of armed robbery in the Singapore Strait trended upwards in the first half of this year, but the incidents involved a small proportion of all vessels using the channel, the Recaap Information Sharing Centre said.

The group said there were more piracy attacks and cases of armed robbery throughout Asian waters in the first half of 2022, with 42 reported incidents compared with 38 for the same period last year. An act of piracy refers to attacks in international waters, while armed robbery refers to attacks within a state's territorial waters, said Recaap, which is the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia. Krishnaswamy Natarajan, who is executive director of the Recaap Information Sharing Centre, said the increase could be partly due to the economic impact of Covid-19, which may have led more people to resort to crime at sea. But he added:" There is a high volume of trade traversing the Singapore Strait - almost 1,000 ships passing through every day.

"The cases have been increasing but the numbers are small compared to the volume of traffic." Krishnaswamy added that the increase in reporting could indicate confidence ship masters have that law enforcement agencies will respond to threats. Of the 27 incidents in the Singapore Strait, 19 occurred in the east-bound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme, with a cluster of incidents off Pulau Nongsa near Indonesia's Batam island. The perpetrators did not use weapons to confront or harm crew aboard ships in all but one incident. In that case, they threatened a motorman with knives, pushed him to the floor and tied him up in the engine room. The motorman managed to free himself and alert the other crew members, but the perpetrators had escaped with engine spare parts. Most of the armed robbery cases in the strait were carried out after dark by two to five perpetrators. They mostly targeted bigger ships such as bulk carriers and tankers, and stole engine spare parts, ship supplies and scrap metal.

The group said the first half of 2022 also saw a decrease in piracy and armed robbery cases across waters off Malaysia, The Philippines and Vietnam. However, Lee warned that the threat of abduction of crew members for ransom remains potentially high in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Saba. She added that the commanders of terrorist organisation Abu Sayyaf Group, who were responsible for such incidents in the past, are still at large.

(Source : The Star 2022, Anti-piracy group reports rise in armed robbery in Singapore Strait)

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QUESTION 1

The number of piracy attacks and cases of armed robbery throughout has been increasing. Explain **FIVE (5)** effects of this to international trade.

(Total: 25 marks)

QUESTION 2

Suggest **FIVE (5)** ways the government and the relevant agencies can undertake to eradicate the piracy attacks and cases of armed robbery cases.

(Total: 25 marks)

SECTION B

Choose TWO (2) questions.

QUESTION 3

Five cosmetic products have been found to contain scheduled poison, says the Health Ministry's National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA). (The Star 2022). Identify and explain **FIVE (5)** effects of this to the industry and the country.

(Total: 25 marks)

QUESTION 4

"As a bank, we look at documentation risks. We want to make sure that all exporters have a sound, balanced commercial agreement and select the appropriate payment terms." was one of the highlights in the "Insightful sharing for exporters" forum (The Star 2022). Illustrate with examples, **FIVE (5)** benefits of proper documentation to international trade.

(Total: 25 marks)

QUESTION 5

Corruption undermines the public's trust in its government. It also threatens market integrity, distorts competition, and endangers economic development (The IMF 2022). Explain with examples **FIVE (5)** effects to international trade.

(Total: 25 marks)

End of Paper